

3 families win Military Family Month contest

Three TEAM KIRTLAND families were selected as winners in the Family Support Center's Military Family Month contest in November.

The winners, the Wick, Perkins and Reyna families, each received \$25 gift certificates to the Mountain View Club.

Contest entries included draw-

ings or short essays illustrating or explaining "Why My Military Family is Special to Me."

The month designated to celebrate military families included computer classes, a holiday dinner for families with deployed members, a Jamaican curry chicken cooking class and a free pizza and movie.



Maj. Sean W. Perkins and family



Tech. Sgt. Albert A. Reyna and family



Tech. Sgt. Daniel A. Wicck and family



Photo by Rebecca Wright

Manning-Lewis art featured at vet park

Work by Paula Manning-Lewis is featured during January at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park on Louisiana Boulevard Southeast, just north of Gibson Boulevard. Manning-Lewis' work is primarily watercolor and mixed media. The self-taught artist served in the military for two years at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Air Force ends captain central selection boards

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force will eliminate captain central selection boards for active-duty, Guard and Reserve officers beginning in 2003.

The move streamlines the process for eligible first lieutenants, placing the decision point for promotion closer to those who know the officers best according to Col. Dale Vande Hey, director of personnel programs for the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas.

"Aside from placing the promotion decision maker closer to the officer, it also saves the Air Force time, money and productivity by eliminating temporary duty trips for board members and preparation time at the centers," Vande Hey said.

Promotion decisions will now be made at the major command or equivalent, Vande Hey said. Previously, active-duty captain selection boards were held at the Air Force Personnel Center, while Reserve and Guard captain selection boards were held at the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver.

"With the possibility on each board to promote 100 percent of those eligible, and with an historical 99 percent active-duty selection rate, it only seemed logical to make this change," Vande Hey said.

The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act permits the service secretaries to eliminate captain promotion boards when the promotion opportunity is 100 percent.

Despite the absence of a central review, individuals will still need to be "fully qualified" to be promoted. This means everyone who is de-

termined to be qualified can be promoted.

By comparison, promotion to the ranks of major through colonel are based on the "best qualified" criterion, meaning promotion board members rank-order qualified candidates by merit and only a predetermined percentage of the total eligible are promoted.

First lieutenants meeting the time-in-grade and time-in-service requirements will be initially recommended as either "promote" or "do not promote" candidates. Members who receive a "do not promote" recommendation will be provided an opportunity to rebut that recommendation.

Recommendation to captain for active-duty officers will take place one year preceding the quarter in which an individual is eligible to pin on, which is based on the two-year date of rank anniversary. Promotion recommendation lists are then compiled and certified quarterly at the major command level and forwarded to the personnel center. Center officials then forward the list of recommended officers through the secretary of the Air Force for presidential approval.

Recommendation to captain for Reserve officers will take place twice a year, which parallels current board cycles. Guard captain recommendations will take place once a year, one year preceding the projected pin-on date.

For more information, active-duty officers should contact their local military personnel flights, and Reserve and Guard officers should call Air Reserve Personnel Center at 303-676-6398.



Sargent takes leadership of academy
Chief Master Sgt. Jerry W. Simmons (left) congratulates Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sargent who took leadership of the Kirtland NCO Academy in a change of leadership ceremony Dec. 19 presided over by Col. Michael P. Gegg, College for Enlisted Professional Military Education commander at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Simmons, who relinquished leadership of the academy to Sargent, retired Dec. 20.

Photo by Keith Wright

Child Development Center fees rise

Income fee ranges for child development centers and school age programs this year have been changed to reflect the current rate of inflation. Fees have not risen the past four years.

The higher cost is effective **Feb. 1** after a 30-day advance notification to parents.

Projected fee increases of \$2 weekly are:

- * Category I, \$0-28,000 an increase to \$53;
- * Category II, \$28,001-34,000 an increase to \$64;
- * Category III, \$34,001-44,000 an increase to \$76;
- * Category IV, \$44,001-55,000 an increase to \$86;
- * Category V, \$55,001-70,000 an increase to \$99;
- * Category VI, \$70,000 and higher an increase to \$105.

myPay offers W-2 forms in January

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN)—Servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants will have their account statements and tax information online courtesy of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's myPay.

In January, active-duty and reserve customers can view and print current-year W-2 using myPay, a secure, on-line system.

The system allows retirees to view and print their account statements. Annuitants can view and print their account statements and 1099R tax statements,

plus they can print 1042S tax statements, copies of their report of existence and submit the form.

To use myPay, members of the armed forces, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and annuitants can use their social security numbers and personal identification numbers to log onto the system at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Customers with questions about myPay can call customer support at 800-390-2348 Monday-Friday 5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MST.

Acquisition course stays at Ohio base

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio—The Air Force Institute of Technology School of Systems and Logistics continues to provide continuing education for the acquisition and sustainment workforce.

Air Force officials announced recently that graduate acquisition and meteorology training will be transferred to the Naval Postgraduate School in California. This transfer will not affect the professional continuing education provided by AFIT,

school officials said.

The school will continue to be an education resource for acquisition and sustainment professionals.

The school provides education in residence at AFIT and on site at field locations. The AFIT Virtual Schoolhouse provides Department of Defense members online access to courses on the latest systems acquisition processes.

To find out more about courses visit the Web site at ls.afit.edu/lbs.